



**JEFFERSON COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
POST OFFICE BOX 1206
DANDRIDGE, TENNESSEE 37725
865-397-7228 OFFICE 865-397-4687 FAX
TIMOTHY J. WILDER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
JCEMA2@MORRISTOWN.NET**

6 February 2012

For immediate release:

February 20-24 is designated Severe Weather Awareness Week in the State of Tennessee. Jefferson County, in cooperation with the National Weather Service and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, invites you to participate in events scheduled during the week.

The first and most important activity will be a tornado drill. Wednesday, February 22 is designated "Drill Day", however a drill can be done any day during the week. If your agency/business is open 24 hours, a drill should be conducted each shift. Once your drills are completed, it is important to notify the EMA office at jcema2@morristown.net, or by calling 865-397-7228 by noon on February 24th. This way, the total number of drills conducted in Jefferson County can be submitted to the state.

Another important way to participate is to encourage the creation of a disaster preparedness kit. Information about disaster preparedness can be found at www.ready.gov. Ensuring employees can care for their families during an emergency will assist in the employees performing better during austere times.

Lastly, businesses should create a disaster plan. Doing this can ensure your agency or business can operate after a disaster. Records can be destroyed and computer data lost. Things such as this can cripple your organization. Business disaster planning can also be accessed at www.ready.gov.

Please consider participating in the 2012 Severe Weather Awareness Week, and thank you in advance for helping make Jefferson County a better place to live, visit, and work.

Timothy J. Wilder, EMT-P, HM Technician
Deputy Director
Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency